

FACT SHEET



Des Moines TCE Site Des Moines, Iowa

August, 2002

Introduction

The National Contingency Plan (NCP), EPA's basic operating plan for Superfund cleanup activities, provides that remedial actions which result in any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure be reviewed every five years to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. "Unlimited use and unrestricted exposure" means that no restrictions are necessary for the use of land or other natural resources.

The purpose of a five-year review is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy in order to make sure it is protective of human health. If, on the basis of the five-year review, EPA determines that the remedy is no longer protective and further action is necessary to protect human health and the environment, then EPA will either take that action or require responsible parties to take the necessary action.

Des Moines TCE Site Five-Year Review

The Des Moines TCE Site consists of ground water contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), soils contaminated with VOCs, pesticides, herbicides, and metals, interior building surfaces contaminated with pesticides, and building insulation materials containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). EPA managed the site in four operable units (OUs)

Each of these OUs are described in more detail in the Background Information below. The remedies selected for the Site were based on assumptions that both land use and ground water use will be restricted to minimize potential exposure to contamination present on the Site. Significant portions of the Site are not available for either unlimited use or unrestricted exposure. EPA completed its first five-year review for this Site in December, 1997.

The primary activities EPA anticipates conducting as part of the review are:

- reviewing relevant site-specific documents;
- reviewing federal, state and local regulations related to public health or the environment, to determine if there have been changes in the standards that should be considered;
- a site inspection to examine all components of the remedial actions implemented for all OUs to determine whether all required elements of the actions have been implemented and all components of the remedies are operating as intended; and
- preparation of a Five-Year Review Report, summarizing information on how the remedies satisfy relevant requirements and are protective of human health and the environment.

EPA expects to complete the review by December 31, 2002. EPA will publish a notice informing the public that the review is complete and the report is available in the Information Repository.

Background Information

The Des Moines TCE Site is located in the south central portion of the City of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, generally adjacent to the Raccoon River. EPA listed the Des Moines TCE Site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983. The ground water beneath the site is heavily contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Surface soil on much of Dico's property is contaminated with VOCs, pesticides, herbicides, and metals.

EPA divided cleanup work at the Site into four operable units. Operable Unit No. 1 (OU1) involves VOC contamination in the ground water that threatened the Des Moines public water supply. EPA signed the OU1 Record of Decision (ROD) in July, 1986. The remedy selected for OU1 was ground water extraction and treatment by air stripping. The remedy was completed in 1987 and continues to operate.

Operable Unit No. 2 (OU2) was originally identified to investigate potential sources on Dico's property of VOCs found in the ground water. During the OU2 remedial investigation (RI), additional contaminants, primarily pesticides and herbicides, were found at levels of concern in soils. EPA designated a new operable unit, OU4, to address areas of pesticide and herbicide contamination. EPA signed a ROD addressing both OU2 and OU4 in December, 1996. The OU2/4 remedial

action consisted of continued operation and maintenance of already-completed removal actions and land use restrictions to prevent exposure to contaminated soils and building surfaces.

EPA designated OU3 to investigate potential VOC sources north of Dico's property in response to contamination which appeared briefly when Dico first started the OU1 ground water extraction system. EPA conducted the OU3 RI as a fund lead action. EPA completed a "no further action" ROD for OU3 in 1992, which provided for continued ground water monitoring.

For More Information

EPA prepared administrative records (ARs) for each of the RODs described above. The ARs include the information EPA relied upon in making remedial action decisions. Copies of the ARs and other site information can be found at the following locations:

Des Moines City Library	EPA Record Center
100 Locust Street	901 N. 5 th Street
Des Moines, Iowa	Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need more information on the Des Moines TCE site or the Five-Year Review process, please contact:

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